

Kansas clout

By Mary Rintoul
City Editor

Kansans hit the jackpot on Nov. 8, 1994. When voters nationwide swept out the Democrats and put Republicans in control of the U.S. House and Senate last November, a strong Kansas Republican delegation — later dubbed the "Kansas mafia" by one Washington writer — was waiting in the wings to take on key assignments in the House and Senate.

Washington



Sen. Bob Dole led the charge as he took over as Senate majority leader.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum stripped the chairmanship of the Senate Labor Committee from a well-known Massachusetts Democrat, Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Rep. Pat Roberts took on the chairmanship of the powerful House Agriculture Committee.

Rep. Jan Meyers became chairman of the House Small Business Committee.

Dan Glickman, the Democratic representative newcomer Todd Tiahrt defeated in November, is still part of the "Kansas mafia." President Clinton nominated him for U.S. secretary of agriculture, and Glickman's nomination was approved last week by the full Senate.

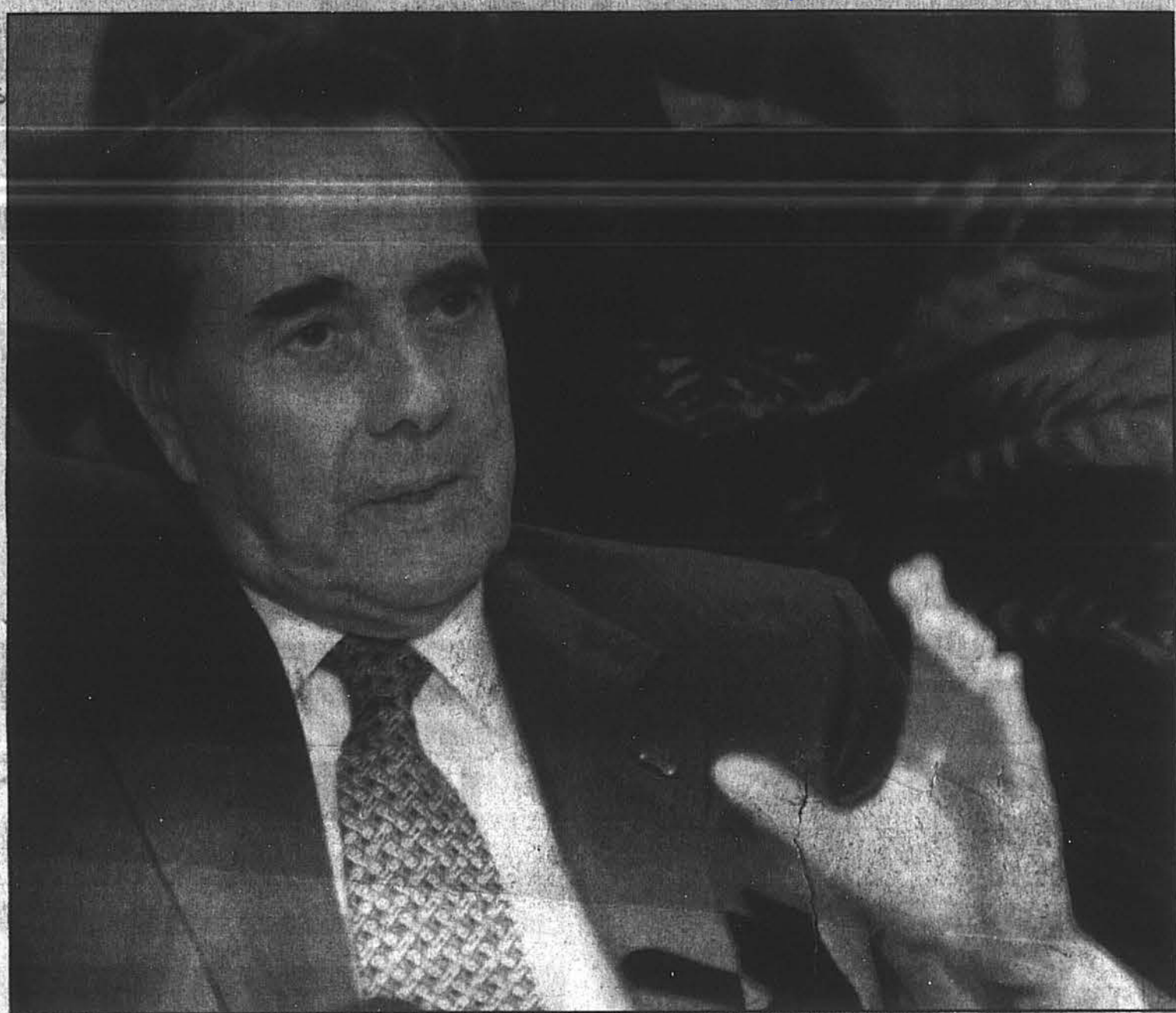
The issues and decisions that face them and others on Capitol Hill — many of which arrived with the GOP's "Contract with America" — are daunting. They include:

- Proposed cuts in farm subsidies that could profoundly affect the Kansas economy.

- Social Security, a program so full of problems that it may not be fully addressed until 1996.

- A balanced-budget amendment, passed by the House but defeated in the Senate in early March.

For the next several days, you'll read about the Kansas delegation and the huge role it plays in Washington, D.C. We start the series today with a story about Sen. Bob Dole and a question-and-answer with the senator on Page 9.



Photos by Alan Montgomery

A recent Times-Mirror inquiry showed 49 percent of the people who responded to the questionnaire picked Bob Dole as their Republican presidential candidate. Phil Gramm came in a distant second with 13 percent.

Bob Dole: 'One more call to serve'

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories about Kansas' top Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate and House. Today's stories focus on Sen. Bob Dole and his run for the presidency.

By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — Bob Dole looked a little tense, perhaps a bit impatient to get back to the Senate action, as he eased into the high-backed chair for an interview.

It had been a bumpy several weeks for the U.S. Senate majority leader, as he and his cohorts wrestled with issues ranging from the balanced budget amendment to unfunded mandates.



Dole gestures during a recent interview in Washington D.C.

As the front-runner for the Republican nomination for president, Dole, 71, was under the gun to show that he could lead the Senate and get things done.



On this day, the Russell native had spent much of his time in last-minute wrangling to ensure the passage of the line-item veto bill. Now he was trying to get it to a

vote, even as the venerable Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., was doing his best to scuttle the measure.

In fiery speeches on the Senate floor, some of them bordering on filibusters, Byrd described the bill as a "monstrosity" and as "a piece of junk" that would defile the democratic process.

But for the Republicans, especially Dole, this bill had to pass.

There already had been two fiascos: The Senate had failed by one vote to pass the balanced budget amendment, and an effort by Dole and Kansas' other senator, Nancy Kassebaum, to overcome a pro-union executive order

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Dole

Continued from Page 1 by President Clinton also had bitten the dust.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas — who is one of Dole's main rivals for the Republican nomination for president — was happily telling reporters the Dole-run Senate was in danger of becoming "a black hole for the Contract With America."

But in this skirmish, Dole was going to come out on top.

Midway through the 20-minute interview, in a discussion about how deep farm subsidies might be cut in the coming year, Dole brought up the line-item veto debate.

"It's like the (line item veto) bill on the floor now," he said, in his deep, bass voice. "We were all over the place, until we got down to the nitty-gritty here, and we put together a new approach which will pass tomorrow. So I'm not going to speculate on what's going to happen in agriculture."

He was right about the line-item

veto. It passed the following day, by a vote of 69-29. For his negotiating efforts, Dole had picked up 19 Democrats to help push the measure through by a healthy margin.

Dole is hoping his presidential bid will meet a similar fate. Although he won't formally announce his campaign until April 10 in Topeka, indications are that he's a strong candidate for the Republican nomination.

In the most recent Times-Mirror poll, taken in mid-February, 49 percent of those asked said Dole was their first choice among the Republican hopefuls, followed by

Phil Gramm at 13 percent and Lamar Alexander at 4 percent.

After 34 years in Congress, Dole certainly has name recognition — and he is on national television news almost every night, as the Washington press corps tracks his moves and seeks his viewpoints.

In interviews earlier this year, Dole pounded on the theme that as president, he would be a leader who would confront problems as they arose and find solutions.

His guide, he said, will be the 10th Amendment: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people."

In a Dole presidency, he said, that would translate to "fewer federal programs, more power to the states, more freedom for our people."

'A call to serve'
Like President George Bush, Dole has an honorable war record. He served in the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division during World War II and was severely wounded during fighting in Italy. Paralyzed for a year, he spent several years in rehabilitation and still has virtually

no use of his right hand. In a March 10 speech to the National Newspaper Association, Dole mentioned his military service, but not his wounds.

He said he returned to the hills of Italy last summer, prior to attending ceremonies in France to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

"As we walked and talked with the other veterans and their families, I thought about the America of our youth — the America we risked our lives to protect, and about our hopes for the generations who would follow us.

"And then I thought about the America we live in today — an America still great and still the beacon of freedom around the world, but an America whose problems seem to be growing deeper and more intransigent.

"Standing there in those Italian hills, I thought perhaps there was one more mission for my generation — one more call to serve."

For Dole, that mission is the presidency. "I thought my generation might have something the country needs right now in a president: Someone who knows what made America

great in the first place; someone who knows what has been sacrificed to keep us free; someone who would do all in his power to lead America back to her place in the sun; someone who knows the way."

Asked recently if he had a hero, he immediately invoked the name of the Kansan who led the Allies in the D-Day Invasion — and later went on to be president.

"I've always thought about Eisenhower as my hero," Dole said. "He was a Republican, but sort of above it all. Not always, but most of the time."

Ready to fight

In a country where big politics requires big money, Dole has amassed a heavyweight team for his Dole for President Finance Committee.

On March 1, Dole announced the Republican National Committee Finance Chairman John Moran would leave the RNC to chair Dole's campaign finance committee.

Moran was a "huge addition to our team," Dole said, adding that the RNC under Moran's leadership had raised over \$115 million in the past two years. Moran joins Denver businessman Philip F. Anschutz, financier Henry Kravis and Paine Webber Chairman Donald B. Marston, who are to serve as deputy finance chairmen.

"Combined, this group has raised More DOLE, Page 11

Dole May Not Run For Senate Again if...

Robert J. "Bob" Dole may not seek re-election to the United States Senate in 1996 if his Republican bid for presidency fails, according to an announcement Dole made Wednesday.

Dole has been in the Senate since 1969. He was first elected to that body in 1938 after the retirement of Frank Carlson of Concordia. Dole served in the House of Representatives from 1961 to 1969.

Should he stand for re-election in 1996, it would be his sixth time to make the race for the office. He was re-elected in 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992.

He said that many in Congress hang around too long.

"I would say if my bid for the presidency fails, there is only a slight possibility that I would run for the Senate again in 1996," Dole said in an article published Wednesday in the New York Newsday.

After publication of the article in Newsday, Dole made an additional statement to clarify his position.

"The only election decision I have made is for 1996. I haven't made any decisions about 1998, but obviously, if I am successful in 1996, that decision won't be necessary."

At the present, and for some time, Dole is the front runner among Republican candidates for the presidency. In fact, it appears

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Dole May —

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now that the nomination of his party, and perhaps his election, is his for the taking.

In a recent poll of GOP voters, Dole was the choice of 42 percent. His runner-up, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, only registered 13 percent. The poll of 782 registered voters had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Dole almost retired in 1992, but again that year he turned aside his challenger as he has done in every election since he first sought office as a Russell County (Kan.) representative in the Legislature in 1950. In 1952 he was elected Russell County attorney. He was re-elected to the county attorney's post three times.

There's also the possibility that Senator Nancy Kassebaum may not run for re-election in 1996. The senator from Wichita has set a timetable for making her decision for the fourth term, but should she decide not to run, she is aware of the need to give those who might wish to run for her Senate seat adequate time to announce and to campaign.

Kassebaum almost called it quits in the 1990 race, but she seems to be enjoying her new status as chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and could find it difficult to leave her post with Republicans in the majority for the first in years.

Dole doubts he'd seek re-election to Senate if presidential bid fails

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — If Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole fails in his third try for the presidency, the Kansas Republican says he is unlikely to seek re-election to the Senate in 1998.

The 71-year-old Dole has served in the Senate since 1968, following four terms in the House. A 1998 campaign would be for his sixth six-year Senate term.

In comments first published Wednesday in New York Newsday, Dole said many in Congress "hang around here for too long." He expressed doubt about running for re-election if his 1996 bid for the White House is unsuccessful.

"I would say the chances are unlikely I would run for the Senate again," Dole said.

Later Wednesday, after the Newsday story appeared, Dole issued a further statement to clarify his position.



Dole

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Dole

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"The only election decision I've made is for 1996. I haven't made any decisions about 1998, but obviously, if I am successful in '96, that decision won't be necessary," he said.

Dole, who almost retired in 1992, has turned aside challengers with relative ease since 1974, when he was tarred by the Watergate scandal along with most Republicans. But Dole came from behind to narrowly defeat Democrat Bill Roy.

For now, Dole is the acknowledged frontrunner for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination.

A nationwide poll of GOP voters by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion released Wednesday had Dole as the choice of 42 percent, compared to 13 percent for Texas Sen. Phil Gramm. The poll of 782 registered voters had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

There could be some changes in Kansas' Senate delegation well before 1998, however. Republican Sen. Nancy Kassebaum has yet to announce whether she will seek a fourth term.

"The senator has set no timetable for making that decision," Kassebaum spokesman Mike Horak said. "Clearly, if she decides not to run, she is aware of the need to give those running for the Senate seat adequate time to campaign."

Kassebaum, who almost called it quits before the 1990 election, is enjoying her new status as chair of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and could find it difficult to leave with Republicans in the majority.

"Having the Republicans in the majority in the Senate has been rewarding for her," Horak said.

Dole

Continued from Page 10 money for the last four GOP presidents," Dole said.

The list of national finance co-chairs includes Cessna Aircraft Corp. Chairman Russell Meyer, Wichita, and Atlantic Richfield Chairman Lodwick Cook. A list of 22 national vice-chairmen includes T. Boone Pickens, of Mesa Ltd. Partnership, Texas; Jordan Haines, of Bank IV, Kansas; Don and Adele Hall, Hallmark, of Kansas and Missouri; and Bruce Jackson, Martin Marietta, Washington, D.C.

Dole's campaign machine will fire up on April 10, when accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, he will announce his campaign at a rally at the Kansas State Capitol Building

at 9:30 a.m. in Topeka.

The same day, he will make the announcement in Exeter, N.H., and in New York City; the following day, in Columbus, Des Moines and Denver; then Dallas and Ft. Lauderdale on the 12th; then Columbia, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C., on the 13th.

Dole and his wife will jet back to Kansas to take part in a "Welcome Home" community pancake breakfast at Russell's VFW Post No. 6240 at 10 a.m. April 14.

The next morning, the senator is to be interviewed for a segment of the television show "Meet the Press" which will be taped in Russell.

Then it will be up to Dole to convince Americans he is the "one who knows the way," and should be sent to the White House.